

MEMORANDUM

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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July 12, 1978

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MEMORANDUM FOR: ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI
DAVID AARON
ROBERT HUNTER

FROM: ROBERT PASTOR *Bob*

SUBJECT: France and Latin America

Before you leave for the Summit, I wanted to bring to your attention three items which bear on our relationship with France and our policies to Latin America. The President need not be concerned with these issues, but perhaps Zbig or Bob Hunter could informally communicate our concern to appropriate counterparts.

Human Rights and Argentina. The Head of the Latin American Affairs in the French Foreign Ministry, Raymond Cesaire, told me that the French had made numerous demarches to the Argentine Government on the human rights issue, and insisted that the French Government is in front of the USG on this issue. Since then, [redacted] that the French are planning a way to finesse the human rights problem by pretending that the situation in Argentina has changed in order to justify a large sale of jet engines and other military equipment to Argentina. I really think we should call them on this issue, and I certainly don't mind if you refer explicitly to my conversation with Cesaire, who was clear in his statements of concern about the terrible human rights situation in Argentina.

Tlatelolco. Cesaire also was clear that the French were moving quickly to complete ratification of Protocol I of the Treaty of Tlatelolco. Since this is such a high priority issue for the President, a little nudge on your part--asking when they expected ratification will occur--would be helpful.

Arms Sales Discussions. As the memo from me to Les Gelb (attached at Tab A) indicates, the head of the Latin American Affairs Bureau in the French Foreign Ministry told me that the French were very interested in discussions on arms restraint by suppliers in Latin America, but Jessica and Les Gelb pointed out to me that this was inconsistent with

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what the rest of the French Foreign Ministry and the French President have been saying, although, of course, they have been talking in general terms about discussions on arms restraint rather than in terms of Latin America. Les has communicated to his contact in the French Embassy to check out and confirm the points made in my conversation. Les believes that it would best be done through that channel and therefore I would not recommend that you raise this issue with your counterparts, but I wanted to bring it to your attention.

cc: Jessica Mathews

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